

# European Biosecurity Awareness Raising Network



Giulio Mancini

Landau Network – Centro Volta



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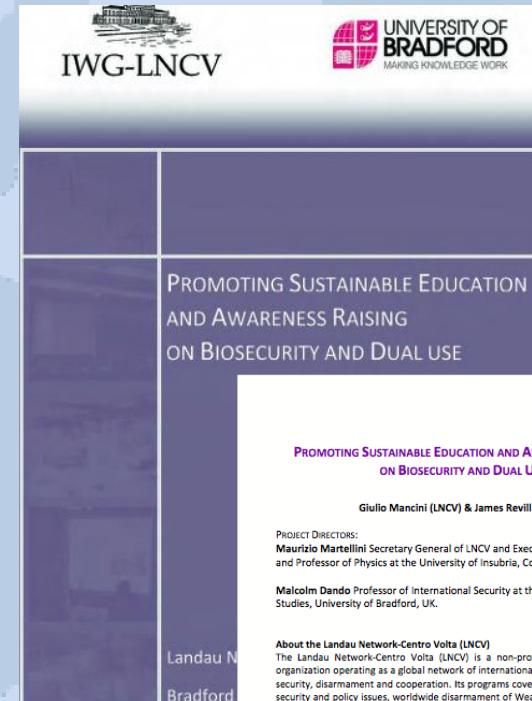


# Outline

- Background
- Gap analysis and assessment
- Multidisciplinary review
- Awareness raising
- Lessons learned and way forward

# Background

- Follow up **network** to 2008-2009 project coordinated by LNCV in partnership with University of Bradford
  - “Promoting Sustainable Education and Awareness Raising on Biosecurity and Dual Use”
  - **Survey** of consideration and attitudes towards biosecurity in European universities in AY 2008-2009
    - Large number of bioethics modules, reasonable number on biosafety, and virtually no biosecurity module
    - Little evidence of references to biosecurity, the BTWC and the issue of dual use
    - Many professors feeling education on biosecurity irrelevant; other recognizing practical limits; **particularly interested minority**
  - Collaborative **networking** with Life Sciences Faculties/Departments
    - Working meetings at faculties
    - LNCV Biosecurity Workshops in Como
  - Implementation **testing** and strategy design
    - Multidisciplinary seminars with students organized by local Departments
    - **Feedback from students and professors**
  - Feedback to policy



2011-2012

# European Biosecurity Awareness Raising Network

- Supported by 2010 EU ISEC Programme on the implementation of 2009 EU CBRN Action Plan
  - Action Plan recommended “*the development, in conjunction with universities and professional associations, of minimal requirements for academic formation and training of students*” to raise “*correct knowledge and awareness on real risks and danger of potential misuse of information and biological tools and appropriate consciousness of related bioethical implications*”
- Objectives
  - Gap analysis and Assessment
  - Engagement
  - Review of current thinking in Europe
  - Awareness Raising
- Partners (and larger Network of interested professors and institutes)
  - Landau Network – Centro Volta
  - University of Coimbra (Center for Functional Ecology)
  - University of Turin (Department of Human and Animal Biology)
  - University of Uppsala (Biology Education Centre)
  - University of Milan (Department of Animal Biology)
- Project guidelines
  - Partnership with, and ownership by, scientific departments
  - Multidisciplinarity
  - Engagement of universities and professional and industrial associations

# Assessment

- **Gap Analysis** on educational opportunities, awareness level and opinions among...
  - Sample of universities offering courses for AY 2011-2012 in neuro/cogno sciences, toxicology, ecology, pharmacology, biotechnology, molecular biology
  - Professional and industrial associations
- Search for...
  - Security considerations
  - Safety considerations
  - Ethics (dual use-related) considerations
- Methods
  - Keyword analysis of online syllabi, programs and materials
  - Survey of course coordinators, directors of departments and professors

# Multidisciplinarity

- Review of current thinking and references
  - Experts in the network from different disciplines
- Thematic reviews
  - Scientific Aspects
  - Policy & ethics Aspects
  - Legal Aspects
  - Environmental safety Aspects

# Awareness Raising

- Seminar Series in 2012-2013
- Collaborative organization between Consortium, Network and invited experts
- Multidisciplinary: balance all the aspects in each seminar
- Website
- Libraries of informational materials, links to external resources and blog
- Media libraries (lectures, interviews)
- Feedback: surveys, questions for students

# Lessons learned and Way Forward

- Engagement and awareness raising of **next generations of scientists**
- Include in collaborative networking a range of relevant stakeholders: **Universities, research institutes, professional associations, national agencies and policy making**
- **Multidisciplinarity**: consider interconnections between technical, scientific, legal, ethical, environmental, social, political and economic factors;
- Link to other **Regional and International Awareness Raising Networks**
  - US, Japan, Middle East and North Africa, Central and South Asia...
  - Information, terminology and materials should be locally relevant
- Suggestion on **sustainability** is ownership by universities
  - The main actors should in the long term be in the science rather than in the security community
  - Value of initial engagement from security community

